

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2018
ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-C024
TITLE: Translations of Book of Common Prayer
PROPOSER: Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe
TOPIC: Language Translation

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-A068 Begin Translating Liturgies into Creole, French and Spanish
2012-A062 Amend Canon II.3.5 [Of the Standard Book of Common Prayer]

Indirectly Related: (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

2003-C029 Publish Official Church Documents in Spanish and French
1994-A081 Develop Liturgical Resources That Recognize Racial and Cultural Diversity
1991-D184 Provide Culturally Sensitive Liturgical Texts

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1976 through 2015, selecting “direct” resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The “direct” resolutions are attached and “indirect” resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.

C024 Translations of Book of Common Prayer

Proposer	Diocese of Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe
Topic	Language Translation
Endorsed by	
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	/
Current Status	Resolution Filed
Version	Original (as filed)
Review Status	Not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, in cooperation with the Custodian of the Book of Common Prayer, be directed to begin work forthwith on translations of essential selections of the Book of Common Prayer, as well as other authorized liturgical resources, including "Enriching Our Worship", into Spanish, Creole, and French, according to the principles outlined in Canon II.3.5; and be it further
- Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$50,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

EXPLANATION

The 78th General Convention Resolution A-068 directed that the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music begin work on translations of the Book of Common Prayer "and/or other materials" in Spanish, Creole, and French. However, following that Convention, the implementation of the resolution was not funded.

The current Spanish, Creole, and French translations are quite outdated, and no longer fill the needs of contemporary worshippers. Nor do they meet the criteria for translations set by Canon II.3.5, which was amended by Resolution 2012-A-062 to allow the Custodian of the Book of Common Prayer to "exercise due discretion in reference to translations of the entire Standard Book or parts thereof, into other languages so that such translations reflect the idiomatic style and cultural context of those languages." The Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music had proposed that amendment to the 77th General Convention, in light of the calls for new translations already being expressed. Moreover, the Spanish and French versions of the Book of Common Prayer are widely used outside The Episcopal Church. Fresh idiomatic translations will be of real use around the Anglican Communion, as well as by other churches who use The Episcopal Church's Book of Common Prayer as a liturgical resource. Making Enriching Our Worship available as well would be an invaluable asset. It is widely used in the Convocation's services, and others, such as the Diocese of Haiti, will benefit from access in French and Creole to it. Furthermore, the translations would serve as examples of inclusive-language liturgies in languages other than English.



Resolution Number: 2015-A068
Title: Begin Translating Liturgies into Creole, French and Spanish
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, in cooperation with the Custodian of the Book of Common Prayer, be directed to begin work on translation of portions of the Book of Common Prayer and/or other authorized liturgical resources into French, Creole, and Spanish, according to the principles outlined in Canon II.3.5; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$40,000 for the implementation of this resolution; \$20,000 to be allocated for work on French and Creole translations; and \$20,000 for work on Spanish translations.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 680.



Resolution Number: 2012-A062
Title: Amend Canon II.3.5 [Of the Standard Book of Common Prayer]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That Canon II.3.5 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 5. No copy, translation, or edition of the Book of Common Prayer, or a part or parts thereof, shall be made, printed, published, or used as of authority in this Church, unless it contains the authorization of the Custodian of the Standard Book of Common Prayer, certifying that the Custodian or some person appointed by the Custodian has compared the said copy, translation, or edition with the said Standard, or a certified copy thereof, and that it conforms thereto. *The Custodian, or some person appointed by the Custodian, may exercise due discretion in reference to translations of the entire Standard Book or parts thereof, into other languages so that such translations reflect the idiomatic style and cultural context of those languages.* And no copy, translation, or edition of the Book of Common Prayer, or a part or parts thereof, shall be made, printed, published, or used as of authority in this Church, or certified as aforesaid, which contains or is bound up with any alterations or additions thereto, or with any other matter, except the Holy Scriptures or the authorized Hymnal of this Church, or with material set forth in the Book of Occasional Services and The Proper for the Lesser Feasts and Fasts, as those books are authorized from time to time by the General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), p. 581.